

REMARKS

This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action dated December 9, 2008. Claims 1 to 4 and 11, 13 to 16 and 20 remain pending in the application, with Claims 6, 7, 10 and 17 to 19 having been canceled herein. Claims 1, 11, 13, 15 and 20 are the independent claims. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

The specification was objected to for including foreign application numbers for material alleged to be incorporated by reference. The specification has been amended to include the corresponding U.S. application information for the subject material. No new matter is believed to be added by the amendment. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the objections are respectfully requested.

Claims 1 to 4, 6, 7, 10, 11 and 13 to 20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, based on the alleged improper incorporation by reference. In view of the foregoing amendments to the specification, this ground of rejection is believed to be obviated. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the § 112, first paragraph rejections are respectfully requested.

Claims 1 to 4, 6, 7, 10, 11 and 13 to 20 were also rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. Each of the points noted in the Office Action have been attended to by amendment. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the § 112, second paragraph rejections are respectfully requested.

Claims 1 to 4, 6, 7, 10, 11 and 13 to 20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) over IRC-38. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections are respectfully requested.

The invention generally relates to seeking host devices on a sub-network that are to be actuated using a remote control. In the invention, when a user utilizes a search function of the remote control to seek a host device connected to a distant node, a local node transmits a first seek signal to the distant node, where the first seek signal includes information about first technical characteristics of the host to be actuated. The distant node identifies a host and provides the local node with the result. If the found host is not the host to be actuated, the local node transmits a second seek signal with second technical characteristics. This process continues until the proper host has been found, after which commands are provided to actuate the host.

Referring specifically to the claims, amended independent Claim 1 is directed to a method of managing a communication network comprising a sub-network having communication nodes interconnected by links conveying digital signals, and a plurality of hosts, the hosts being able to exchange data via the sub-network, the communication nodes comprising data and control interfaces for exchanging data and operating commands with hosts to which the communication nodes are connected, the method comprising the steps of transmitting a first seek signal from a local communication node to a distant communication node of the sub-network, the first seek signal containing information representing first technical characteristics of a host to be actuated, the transmission of the first seek signal being performed in accordance with instructions from a remote control, and identifying a candidate host, that is connected to the distant communication node and that has technical characteristics compatible with the technical characteristics contained in the first seek signal, wherein, if the candidate host is not the host to be actuated, a second seek signal is transmitted from the local communication node,

the second seek signal containing second technical characteristics, the transmission of the second seek signal being performed in accordance with instructions from a remote control, whereas, if the host is the host to be actuated, operating commands are sent to the candidate host by means of the control interface of the distant communication node.

Claim 11 is a computer medium claim that substantially corresponds to Claim 1, while Claim 13 is directed to the distant node and Claim 15 is directed to the local node in relation to method Claim 1.

Claim 20 is directed to a method for seeking an apparatus possessing predetermined technical characteristics by a communication apparatus, comprising a wireless receiving step of wirelessly receiving an instruction signal for instructing to seek an apparatus possessing the predetermined technical characteristics, and a seeking step of seeking an apparatus possessing the predetermined technical characteristics based on the received instruction signal, wherein said seeking step comprises a requesting step of wirelessly sending a request to a distant apparatus to obtain information on a connected apparatus connected to said distant apparatus; and a step of continuing seeking for an apparatus possessing the technical characteristics, based on a response to the request.

The applied art of IRC-38 is not seen to teach the features of the invention. In particular, with regard to Claims 1 and 11, IRC-38 is not seen to disclose or to suggest at least the features of identifying a candidate host, that is connected to the distant communication node and that has technical characteristics compatible with the technical characteristics contained in the first seek signal, wherein, if the candidate host is not the host to be actuated, a second seek signal is transmitted from the local communication node, the second seek signal containing second technical characteristics, the transmission of the

second seek signal being performed in accordance with instructions from a remote control. With regard to Claim 13, IRC-38 is not seen to teach a control interface that starts up and operates the host based on a comparison result by the comparing means, and that transmits the received seek signal once again on the sub-network when the comparing means determines that the technical characteristics indicated in the received seek signal are different from the technical characteristics of the host. With regard to Claim 15, IRC-38 is not seen to teach determining means for determining when the seek signal is transmitted again on the sub-network, and sending means for sending operating commands to said host to be actuated when the seek signal is no longer transmitted again on the sub-network. Regarding Claim 20, IRC-38 is not seen to teach a requesting step of wirelessly sending a request to a distant apparatus to obtain information on a connected apparatus connected to said distant apparatus, and a step of continuing seeking for an apparatus possessing the predetermined technical characteristics, based on a response to the request received from the distant apparatus.

IRC-38 is seen to disclose recognizing a type of an infrared code structures (Sony, NEC, RC5) so that those infrared codes can be converted into an appropriate output signal for actuating a device to be controlled. IRC-38 discloses an example where the infrared receiver recognizes Sony's "power on" and thus converts this code to the appropriate output signal (see page 1). However, IRC-38 is not seen to teach the features of transmitting a second search signal, or continuing to seek a device, when a candidate host identified as a result of a first seek signal turns out not to be the host to be actuated. Thus, IRC-38 is not seen to teach the foregoing features of Claims 1, 11, 13, 15 and 20.

No other matters being raised, the entire application is believed to be in condition for allowance, and such action is courteously solicited.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, California office at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

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